(CLASSIFICATION)

RF 394 (R)

OPIES TO:

S/S # 8123461

DATE SEP 25 1981

/S
/S-S:DIR
MA
MB
MC
EA
A
P:WEB

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

81 SEP 25 P9:11

FOR: Mr. Richard V. Allen
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: President Reagan FROM: Mr. Earl G. Hunt, Jr.

DATE: June 6, 1981 SUBJECT: Registering deep distress over Israel's bombing of Iraq.

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: August 4, 1981 NSC # 034983

_____ THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

_____ A draft reply is attached

_____ A draft reply will be forwarded

_____ A translation is attached

X An information copy of a direct reply is attached

_____ We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below

_____ Other

REMARKS:

PA/PC/CM:HHellsnis:dj
X21394 9-25-81
NEA, PM, ACDA: 9/81 ## for
PA: J. O'Neil jco

for William Montgomery
L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY WB DATE 1-18-84 Unclassified
(CLASSIFICATION)

RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA[illegible]TIONS _____

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

25 SEP 1981

Dear Bishop Hunt:

I am replying to your message to President Reagan concerning Israel's air strike into Iraq. I regret the long delay in this response and hope the following review of U.S. actions and policies is helpful in understanding our position.

As you know, on June 7, Israeli Air Force units attacked the nuclear reactor under construction in Tuwaitha, Iraq. On June 8, we condemned the Israeli air strike, noting that the unprecedented character of this action would seriously add to the already tense situation in the area and complicate our efforts to peacefully resolve problems there. The United States was not consulted in any way about any phase of the operation and was not informed of it in advance.

On June 10, the President suspended the scheduled delivery of four F-16 aircraft to Israel pending further study of the Israeli action and consultations with Congress. That same day, pursuant to Section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act, Secretary Haig sent letters to the Chairmen of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees indicating that a substantial violation of the 1952 U.S.-Israel Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement may have occurred. After the required report to Congress, the Act leaves any further determination or action to the President's discretion. Congress may also take further action.

On June 19, the United States voted for U.N. Security Council Resolution 487 condemning the Israeli attack, making clear our profound concern about the raid's impact on the peace and security of all the nations of the Middle East.

The Reverend Earl G. Hunt, Jr.,
Resident Bishop,
The United Methodist Church,
Post Office Box 1747,
Lakeland, Florida.

The July escalation of the cycle of violence on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border, which included Israeli air attacks on Beirut and Palestinian rocket attacks on northern Israeli towns, was of great concern to us. Because of this general atmosphere of increased violence and tension in the region, the President continued the suspension of scheduled military aircraft deliveries to Israel, eventually including ten additional F-16's and two F-15's. We voted for U.N. Security Council Resolution 490, which called for an immediate end to all armed attacks, and we worked hard to end the cross-border violence.

The Administration conducted an intensive review of these events, including candid discussions with Israeli Prime Minister Begin and consultations with Congress. We are satisfied that the Government of Israel clearly understands the provisions of U.S. law that govern the use of U.S.-supplied military equipment. The review took into account events and trends in the Middle East, particularly the events in Lebanon leading to a cease-fire on July 24. This cease-fire is a positive element in the region, one which we hope will continue and lead to other steps toward peace. In view of the changed atmosphere in the region, and after the review's completion, President Reagan lifted the suspension of military aircraft deliveries to Israel.

In the case of the air attack on the Iraqi nuclear facility, we have carefully noted the Israeli and Iraqi positions. Israel contends that its action against Iraq was a necessary, legitimate act of self-defense because the Iraqi reactor was intended to produce weapons grade material to make atomic bombs. Israel also points out that there is a state of war between the two countries and contends that Iraq had made clear its intention to produce such a weapon for use against Israel.

Iraq, on the other hand, denies that its nuclear program has any application other than the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Iraq points out that it has ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty and that its reactor and supply of enriched uranium were subject to International Atomic Energy Agency safeguard controls.

The United States does not believe that force can provide the answer to international disputes. Our condemnation of Israel's action was intended to clearly express this view. At the same time, as Ambassador Kirkpatrick made clear before the U.N. Security Council, we remain fully committed to the security and well-being of Israel and to the

friendship between our two countries. The United States will continue to do all in its power to achieve a just and lasting peace for all the peoples of the Middle East.

Sincerely,

/s/

Francis Terry McNamara
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs

6123481

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

AUGUST 4, 1981

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 034983

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JUNE 6, 1981

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. EARL G. HUNT JR.
PRESIDENT BISHOP
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
POST OFFICE BOX 1747
LAKELAND FL 33802

SUBJECT: REGISTERING DEEP DISTRESS OVER ISRAEL'S
BOMBING OF IRAQ

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL — IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN BASIC CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 33, THE WHITE HOUSE

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT:
LESLIE SORG
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

8123461

The United Methodist Church

FLORIDA AREA

EARL G. HUNT, JR.
Resident Bishop

June 6, 1981

The President of The United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

03/983

Dear Mr. President:

In registering my deep distress and strong apprehension over Israel's wanton bombing of Iraq, I have genuine satisfaction and honor in commending you for what the media have reported as your own personal reaction of shock and disappointment in this decidely provocative and illegal initiative upon the part of Prime Minister Begin's government. I would greatly hope that the United States may let it be known in the most unmistakable manner that it cannot condone such an inhuman act whose reverberations have brought into reality a new and dangerous Mid-east crisis.

May God bestow upon you, Mr. President, that abundance of wisdom, restraint and global statesmanship required to help lead our bewildered human family safely through the treacherous waters of this tragic event and the larger sequence of perils to which it belongs.

Very respectfully yours,

Earl G. Hunt, Jr.

EGHJr/nn

POST OFFICE BOX 1747 · LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33802 · TELEPHONE 813/688-4427